



# Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 22 November 2005

Current  
Nationwide  
Threat Level is  
**ELEVATED**  
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF  
TERRORIST ATTACKS  
[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)  
<http://www.dhs.gov/>

## Daily Highlights

- The Brownsville Herald in Texas reports that local health officials are concerned that undocumented immigrants crossing through the Rio Grande Valley could be introducing or helping spread communicable diseases in South Texas. (See item [18](#))
- According to a report conducted by New York University's Center for Catastrophic Preparedness and Response, more than half of the Americans surveyed said they have not taken steps to better prepare themselves for a disaster even though they are aware of the devastation caused by the hurricanes and subsequent flooding of New Orleans. (See item [23](#))

### DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation and Border Security](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture](#); [Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health](#)

Federal and State: [Government](#); [Emergency Services](#)

IT and Cyber: [Information Technology and Telecommunications](#); [Internet Alert Dashboard](#)

Other: [Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons](#); [General](#); [DHS Daily Report Contact Information](#)

## Energy Sector

### **Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels:**

[\[set manually\]](#)

1. **November 21, North American Electric Reliability Council — Winter reliability assessment released.** The North American Electric Reliability Council (NERC) released its 2005/2006 Winter Assessment on Monday, November 21. The report states that, absent major unforeseen fuel supply or delivery constraints, electricity generating capacity should be adequate to meet the demand for electricity throughout North America this winter. However, the report notes that a significant amount of natural gas production may not be available this winter to interstate pipelines serving the Atlantic seaboard due to the lingering effects of hurricane damage on the Gulf Coast, and that preparations are under way to address this possibility. While additional

delivery or supply curtailments could occur, individual regions do not anticipate significant reliability problems from these fuel supply issues, except for the potential concerns noted by ISO–New England. NERC projects peak demand across North America to be about 15,000 MW greater than last winter, while generating capacity is projected to increase by about 10,000 MW. As a result, the available capacity margins are slightly lower overall compared with last winter, with some regions showing small increases and others showing small decreases in margins.

The 2005/2006 Winter Assessment is available at: <http://www.nerc.com/~filez/rasreports.html>  
Source: <http://www.nerc.com/>

2. *November 21, Knight Ridder Tribune* — **Inquiry spurs fears about security at bomb plant.**

At the Pantex Plant near Amarillo, TX, -- the nation's only nuclear weapons assembly facility -- federal agents are trying to determine whether an armed courier had help in acquiring and selling or trying to sell such items as laser aiming devices, a specialized rifle scope, body armor and 50–round ammunition drums for assault weapons. Joe Sizemore, the suspect, had top–secret credentials during his 10 years as a courier for Pantex, where he helped in the clandestine transportation of nuclear materials on the nation's highways. Believing that Sizemore was selling sensitive military equipment over the Internet, federal agents raided his ranch–style home in south Amarillo on October 20. Among the items seized were computer records, ammunition, machine guns, security credentials and a "Moonlight Night Vision" device, records show. Investigators say they don't believe that the radioactive components of an atomic bomb, uranium and plutonium, have fallen into the wrong hands, however, the investigation into the missing gear and the suspicion of inappropriate actions by someone with such easy access to nuclear components have raised questions about security at the 9,100–acre facility, where atomic warheads are assembled, disassembled and stored.

Source: [http://www.kansascity.com/mld/kansascity/news/nation/1322372\\_9.htm](http://www.kansascity.com/mld/kansascity/news/nation/1322372_9.htm)

3. *November 20, Associated Press* — **Eastern coal producers affected by worker shortage.**

Caught between strong demand and an ongoing labor shortage, some coal producers are offering pay hikes, improved benefits, and bonuses in an effort to attract new miners. The prolonged surge in coal demand has led companies to reopen shuttered mines and add new ones. Sixty–nine mines opened in the Appalachian region last year, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA). Coal fuels more than half of all electricity generated in the United States, and Appalachia's 390 million tons of coal represented about 35 percent of total U.S. production last year, according to the EIA. Eastern coal executives openly acknowledge that the labor shortage is affecting their ability to hit production targets, said Luke Popovich, a spokesperson for the National Mining Association. The most recent low point in coal demand was acutely felt when demand for labor started ramping up again. "We sort of had a generation of mining people who simply weren't being recruited and that same phenomenon was being observed in mining schools," said Popovich. "Now that you need them, you've got fewer eligible miners and engineers," added Popovich.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/11/20/AR2005112000609.html>

4. *November 19, Reuters* — **Global oil producers discuss supply.** Global oil consumers and producers discussed on Saturday, November 19, calls for greater transparency in oil markets and investment in production capacity to curb prices which hit record levels this year. Ministers

and officials from the United States, China, India and the European Union held talks behind closed doors with oil giant Saudi Arabia and other major Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) exporters in the Saudi capital. Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah said his country, which is under pressure from consumer nations to raise output capacity to cool oil prices, is committed to meeting customers' needs. He said consumer nations must also play their part by lowering taxes on refined petroleum products and taking a stand against oil market speculation, which Saudi officials often blame for volatile prices. A study released by the U.S. Congress's Joint Economic Committee said this week that OPEC producers have kept their production levels down and pushed up crude prices, however, producers blame a lack of global refining capacity for the spike.

Joint Economic Committee's "OPEC and the High Price of Oil":

<http://www.house.gov/jec/publications/109/11-17-05opec.pdf>

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/11/19/AR2005111900465.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector**

5. *November 21, WAVY 10 (VA)* — **Overtaken propane truck causes homes to be evacuated in Virginia.** An overturned propane delivery truck has caused approximately twenty homes in Suffolk, VA, to be evacuated. The accident happened around 11:30 a.m. EST. The Virginia Department of Transportation, police and Hazmat crews responded to the incident. Police have closed the two-lane road. Police report that a propane cloud escaped from the rear of the truck. Residents were urged to avoid the area. The driver of the truck was not injured in the accident. Source: <http://www.wavy.com/Global/story.asp?S=4148647&nav=23ii2QAi>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

Nothing to report.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Banking and Finance Sector**

6. *November 20, Associated Press* — **Alleged counterfeiting ring broken in Colombia.** Colombian Police assisted by U.S. Secret Service agents on Sunday, November 20, broke up a network capable of printing millions of dollars a month of excellent quality counterfeit money and arrested five suspects during a raid on a remote village in northwest Colombia, officials said. Nearly \$3 million in fake U.S. 100 dollar bills was seized during the raid in Dagua, a village nestled in Andean foothills 190 miles southwest of the capital, Bogota, said Eduardo Fernandez, head of the DAS police agency in Valle del Cauca state. Fernandez said the fake money was being sent to neighboring Ecuador and Central American countries where the dollar has been adopted as legal tender, as well as to the United States. "The printing plates they were using were very good, so that the quality of the counterfeit money was excellent," he said.

Source: [http://www.cnn.com/2005/WORLD/americas/11/20/colombia.counte.rfeit.ap/index.html?section=cnn\\_latest](http://www.cnn.com/2005/WORLD/americas/11/20/colombia.counte.rfeit.ap/index.html?section=cnn_latest)

7. *November 20, Gulf News (United Arab Emirates)* — **Experts to scrutinize Arab states for money laundering.** Sixteen Arab countries will come in for scrutiny by the Middle East North Africa Financial Action Task Force (MENA FATF) in a move towards stepping up efforts to combat money laundering and terrorist financing, a conference was told on Saturday, November 19. "The MENA–FATF will send experts to member countries to examine their regulatory mechanisms and give recommendations. The aim is to ensure whether the member countries are compliant with international standards in fighting money laundering and terrorist financing," said Adel H. Alqulish, executive secretary of the Bahrain–based MENA–FATF. "We will be starting the assessments in April 2006, first in Syria to be followed by other countries. We are aiming to cover two to three countries a year and complete the entire process in five years," he said in his address to the Regional Conference on Investigating and Prosecuting Advanced Financial Crimes. The three–day conference is being conducted by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Central Bank in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Awqaf, in the UAE along with the Office of Overseas Prosecutorial Development, Assistance and Training, US. Department of Justice and the MENA–FATF. Conference information: <http://www.cbuae.gov.ae/US–GSS–Conference/US–GCC.htm>  
Source: <http://www.gulf–news.com/Articles/BusinessNF.asp?ArticleID=1.93704>

[[Return to top](#)]

## **Transportation and Border Security Sector**

8. *November 20, KUTV (UT)* — **Romanian man serves time for going to his twin's airport job.** A Romanian man has served his time for pretending to be his identical twin at a secure job refueling jetliners at the Salt Lake City, UT, International Airport. Olimpiu Constantine Nedelcu was sentenced to five months and was released by U.S. District Judge David Winder on Friday, November 18. He has been placed on parole for 24 months. Nedelcu's brother, Silviu Lucregiu Nedelcu, had a security badge and the required computer training to work in a secure part of the airport. Olimpiu Nedelcu, 29, was filling in for his brother because Silviu couldn't show up for work that day. But federal prosecutors said they have doubts about whether Silviu Nedelcu planned to keep the job or hand it off to help Olimpiu Nedelcu. Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael Kennedy said the brothers' switch raised homeland security concerns. Having an unauthorized person in a sensitive part of the airport where jets are being maintained and fueled makes that person "more susceptible to bribery" by enemies of the United States, Kennedy said.  
Source: [http://kutv.com/topstories/local\\_story\\_324141921.html](http://kutv.com/topstories/local_story_324141921.html)
9. *November 20, Topeka Capital–Journal (KS)* — **Kansas officers attend terrorist interdiction training course.** Law enforcement professionals from across Kansas have attended Advanced Commercial Vehicle Criminal and Terrorist Interdiction training in Salina, KS. The training course is recognized as the only one of its kind in the world and was presented by Joe David, a retired California Highway Patrol trooper. The hands–on training course, called Desert Snow, was held from October 24 to 26. The course subjected officers to 150 types of concealment methods, more than 30,000 pounds of simulated drugs, \$20 million in simulated currency, and

enough explosive devices to buckle a highway system, destroy commercial and government buildings and bring down commercial jetliners. During the training, officers inspected a variety of commercial vehicles that had unique hidden compartments. Highway Patrol Captain Mark Bruce said U.S. highways were traversed by more than 8.5 million trucks and that arrests for smuggling drugs have shown they also have "the potential to deliver weapons of mass destruction across our nation's highways." Eighty law enforcement officers from 23 agencies, including the Kansas Highway Patrol, Topeka police, several Kansas police and sheriff's offices, and agencies from Iowa, Illinois and Oklahoma attended.

Source: [http://www.cjonline.com/stories/112005/kan\\_terrorist.shtml](http://www.cjonline.com/stories/112005/kan_terrorist.shtml)

- 10. *November 20, News Zap (DE)* — Police aim to shore up seas in Delaware.** Delaware's waterways would see enhanced protections as part of the Department of Safety and Homeland Security's spending proposal for the coming budget year. The agency's secretary, David B. Mitchell, presented a plan earlier this month to form a maritime unit in the Delaware State Police. "Delaware's unguarded coasts and waterways have always been a serious security concern for our department," Mitchell said. "We are a gateway to Philadelphia, the rest of Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey." The agency has used federal funds to purchase a 34-foot vessel, Mitchell said, but is seeking \$800,000 from the state to buy a 44-foot vessel. Mitchell also requested \$12,000 to fund operations of the 34-foot vessel, which will start patrolling waterways in the spring. The state police maritime unit will focus on security issues, according to Mitchell. The state police maritime unit could also assist the U.S. Coast Guard, Mitchell said. Currently, the state police can fly out to observe a vessel but can't board ships. The police maritime unit would give them the capability to board vessels for security purposes. Source: [http://www.newszap.com/articles/2005/11/21/dm/central\\_delawa\\_re/dsn01.txt](http://www.newszap.com/articles/2005/11/21/dm/central_delawa_re/dsn01.txt)

- 11. *November 19, Associated Press* — Security breaches at Newark Liberty International Airport prompt formation of task force.** Recent security lapses at New Jersey's Newark Liberty International Airport have prompted officials to form a new task force that will meet weekly for the next three months to tighten anti-terrorism efforts. The formation of the task force follows at least three recent security breaches at Newark. On November 12, the Port Authority let a drunken driver through a checkpoint and onto a perimeter road. On November 5, American Airlines allowed a passenger to board a plane with only a flight itinerary printout. And on October 10, Continental Airlines admitted allowing checked baggage onto flights without having screened the items for explosives, a violation of Congressional mandate. About 30 officials representing the Transportation Security Administration, the Port Authority, the airlines and FedEx met for more than an hour Friday, November 18, to discuss continuing security lapses at the airport. Source: [http://www.newsday.com/news/local/wire/newjersey/ny-bc-nj--airportsecurity1119nov19.0.2060607.story?coll=ny-region-apnew\\_jersey](http://www.newsday.com/news/local/wire/newjersey/ny-bc-nj--airportsecurity1119nov19.0.2060607.story?coll=ny-region-apnew_jersey)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

Nothing to report.

[\[Return to top\]](#)



## Agriculture Sector

12. *November 21, Charleston Gazette (WV)* — **Officials on lookout for chronic wasting disease in West Virginia deer.** Wildlife biologists believe they'll have a much better idea how widespread chronic wasting disease (CWD) is in West Virginia after the state's annual season for buck deer, which began Monday, November 21. Division of Natural Resources (DNR) officials have set up biological-sampling stations at nine game-checking stations in Hampshire County, where a CWD outbreak has occurred. Technicians will remove lymph nodes from deer killed by hunters, and will send the samples to a U.S. Department of Agriculture-certified testing laboratory. "Our goal is to obtain enough samples to determine the exact location and extent of the disease's outbreak," says Paul Johansen, DNR's assistant wildlife chief. Ultimately, DNR officials hope to sample 459 deer within a 5-mile radius of Slanesville, the site where the first CWD-positive deer turned up. "We'd also like to take 450 to 460 more from the rest of the county," Johansen said. So far, only three of samples have tested positive for CWD. Hunters will be able to check the test results by calling a DNR district office or by logging onto the DNR's Web site, [www.wvdnr.gov](http://www.wvdnr.gov). Johansen cautioned that the tests are merely to determine whether the animals have CWD, not to determine food quality or safety. Source: <http://www.wvgazette.com/section/News/200511213>
  
13. *November 21, Agricultural Research Service* — **A promising lure may curb South American fruit fly woes.** Controlling damaging *Anastrepha* fruit flies in their country of origin before they enter the United States is the goal the Agricultural Research Service (ARS). *Anastrepha* fruit fly species are a serious pest in southern Texas, California, Arizona, and Florida, where growers are especially vulnerable to these flies, which infest citrus, including grapefruit and oranges, as well as pears, peaches and apples. ARS entomologist David C. Robacker of the Crop Quality and Fruit Insects Research Unit in Weslaco, Texas, has developed an effective synthetic fruit fly lure. When tested on sticky bottle traps, the lure proved 20 times more effective than standard ammonium phosphate McPhail traps for capturing South American fruit flies (*A. fraterculus*). The lure remained effective for up to 16 weeks. The lure shows great promise as a tool for detecting and monitoring *Anastrepha* species, according to Robacker. It could also be used for mass-trapping, or at bait stations or kill stations. Future research will determine if the lure will work in other geographical areas and for other species of fruit flies. Source: <http://www.ars.usda.gov/News/docs.htm?docid=1261>
  
14. *November 20, Associated Press* — **Chronic wasting disease turns up in new area of Wyoming.** Chronic wasting disease has turned up for the first time in a hunt area near Newcastle, WY, according to the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. The disease was found in a white-tailed deer taken last month on a ranch southeast of Newcastle. It was the first time the deer disease has been documented in Hunt Area 9, which is located between U.S. 16 and the South Dakota line. Chronic wasting disease is a fatal neurological condition that affects deer. The disease has spread rapidly in recent years after being confined for decades to Colorado and southern Wyoming. Source: <http://www.billingsgazette.com/index.php?id=1&display=rednews/2005/11/21/build/wyoming/80-cwd.inc>

[[Return to top](#)]

## Food Sector

15. *November 20, Canadian Press* — **Research suggests prions — cause of mad cow diseases — may be found in milk.** New research into prions, the infectious agents that cause mad cow-like diseases, has found them in the mammary glands of some sheep, raising questions about whether milk and milk products from infected animals could transmit the pathogens. The current potential risk to human health is low and may be nil, but experts suggested the findings are a warning that if prion diseases in livestock aren't rigorously hunted for and rooted out, milk and milk products could be a potential route of transmission of prions to humans. In humans, highly infectious prions cause the brain wasting variant-Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease or CJD. Dr. Neil Cashman, a researcher at the University of British Columbia and Canada's leading expert on bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) (mad cow disease), said Thursday, November 17, "I think the public health implications of this are profound...(and) need further investigation...I sincerely think that the human risk is very small or zero...But we won't know that until further work has been done. This points up a gap in our understanding of BSE in particular that needs to be answered with further research." The research was published in the November issue of the journal *Nature Medicine*.

Source: <http://www.canada.com/health/story.html?id=f9614040-4517-473c-9f20-f45afbed1df8>

[[Return to top](#)]

## Water Sector

16. *November 21, Hartford Courant (CT)* — **High lead levels found.** New Britain, CT, officials are urging residents to have their water tested for lead. Recent tests conducted by the city water department in 500 homes found levels of lead at higher levels than permitted under federal guidelines. Environmental Protection Agency regulations require that 90 percent of the homes tested must have lead levels below 15 parts per billion. The latest testing in New Britain found about 81 percent of the homes had lead below allowable levels. Gilbert Bligh, director of the city water department, attributed the elevated levels to the use of lead solder for joining water pipes inside the houses. The use of lead solder was banned in 1986, but it can be found in houses built before that date, he said. Lead can pose a significant risk if too much of it enters the body. It builds up over many years and can damage the brain, red blood cells and kidneys. Lead in drinking water, although rarely the sole cause of lead poisoning, can significantly increase a person's total lead exposure, Bligh said. When water stands in lead pipes or plumbing systems containing lead for several hours or more, the lead may dissolve into the water, he said.

Source: <http://www.courant.com/news/local/hc-neblead1121.artnov21.0.4420902.story?coll=hc-headlines-local>

[[Return to top](#)]

## Public Health Sector

17. *November 21, Agence France Presse* — **Bird flu virus found again in Romania.** Four chickens found dead in Romania's Danube Delta last week were carrying the deadly H5N1

strain of the bird flu virus, agriculture minister Gheorghe Flutur revealed Monday, November 21. Flutur said two other new outbreaks of bird flu were discovered at Obretinul Mic and in the Gulf of Muzura, both in the southeastern Danube Delta. Seven swans and a moorhen were infected with the virus but further tests would be carried out at a British laboratory to determine whether they were carrying the deadly H5N1 strain. Last month, the H5N1 strain, which has killed more than 60 people in Asia since late 2003, was detected in two locations in the Danube region and then in Romania's northeast. Flutur said the quarantine had been lifted on the village of Maliuc, also in the Danube Delta, which had been isolated since the discovery in mid-October of the deadly H5N1 bird flu virus in a chicken and a swan.

Source: [http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20051121/hl\\_afp/healthfluomania\\_confirm\\_051121150659;\\_ylt=AkCdyNyG0h7mQ3w71izIbyOJOrgF:\\_ylu=X3oDMTBiMW04NW9mBHNIYwMIJVRPUCUI](http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20051121/hl_afp/healthfluomania_confirm_051121150659;_ylt=AkCdyNyG0h7mQ3w71izIbyOJOrgF:_ylu=X3oDMTBiMW04NW9mBHNIYwMIJVRPUCUI)

**18. *November 21, Brownsville Herald (TX)* — Disease hard to control along border.**

Undocumented immigrants crossing through the Rio Grande Valley could be introducing or helping spread communicable diseases in South Texas, such as resistant strains of tuberculosis and even the avian flu, according to health officials. In the 2005 fiscal year, the U.S. Border Patrol detained 137,083 undocumented immigrants in the Valley, and 15,321 people have been detained in fiscal year 2006, since October 1. "The illegal immigrants don't necessarily help the situation," said Herb Tolentino, director of nurses for the Cameron, TX, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). "Especially if they are coming from Central America, and they come through Mexico, if they have tuberculosis (TB) or dengue, they might bring that with them to the border and then transmit it," Tolentino said. Tuberculosis, along with cholera, smallpox, yellow fever, hemorrhagic fevers, SARS, and influenza with potential for pandemic are diseases the federal government deems quarantinable. In Cameron officials closely monitor the diseases, plus dengue, chickenpox, AIDS/HIV, hepatitis, and measles for sudden outbreaks.

Source: [http://www.brownsvilleherald.com/ts\\_more.php?id=68170\\_0\\_10\\_0\\_M](http://www.brownsvilleherald.com/ts_more.php?id=68170_0_10_0_M)

**19. *November 21, Scientist* — Prompted by possible biotreats, proteomics explores both sides of the host-pathogen interaction.**

Potential perils from bioterrorism to bird flu are increasingly pushing proteomics researchers to identify molecules involved in the infection process. Often stymied in characterizing all the proteins of a single organism, investigators must now contend with the complexities inherent in characterizing two intertwined, antagonistic organisms: host and pathogen. "There's really just not a whole lot of proteomic work published yet" on host-pathogen interactions, says Sandra McCutchen-Maloney, biodefense proteomics group leader at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in Livermore, CA. Prospects for such research are improving, however, thanks to technical advances and increased funding. If presentations at meetings are any indication, significant papers should emerge within a year, predicts Philip C. Hanna, an associate professor of microbiology and immunology at the University of Michigan. Hanna directs one of seven biodefense proteomics research centers (BPRCs) that the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) funded in 2004. Joseph J. Breen, the program officer who oversees the centers, describes their goal as generating targets for diagnostics, therapeutics, and vaccines. To attain it, some BPRC investigators are trying a bold new approach — monitoring host and pathogen proteomes simultaneously. Earlier studies, in contrast, identified proteins in either host or pathogen.

Source: <http://www.the-scientist.com/2005/11/21/14/1>



20. *November 21, Los Angeles Times (CA)* — **Database of animals could detect disease outbreak or a bioterrorism attack.** Under a new surveillance system developed at Purdue University, pets may provide early warning of an impending epidemic of a dangerous disease or an alert to a bioterror threat. The rationale: Dogs and cats share a home environment with their owners and are exposed to the same germs. But the pets have a faster metabolism, so they will exhibit disease symptoms sooner than humans. The National Companion Animal Surveillance Network is the brainchild of Larry Glickman, a veterinary epidemiologist at Purdue University. The network taps into data from the Banfield pet hospital chain, which has 500 facilities in 44 states. The chain sees about two percent of the nation's cats and dogs each year. Information about these pets is entered into a nationwide computerized database, which is updated daily with new information from the estimated 70,000 pets that visit the animal hospital chain each week. Glickman devised a special software system to mine Banfield's database. With just a keystroke, scientists can watch the pattern of any illness moving through the pet population. But the software does more than search for ailments that have been diagnosed: It scans the database for certain clinical signs so that outbreaks of new or known diseases can be detected. Source: <http://www.latimes.com/features/health/la-he-lab21nov21.1.6715780.story?coll=la-headlines-health>

21. *November 20, University of Bath* — **Study of how bacteria change their metabolic networks.** Bacteria feel pressures to evolve antibiotic resistance and other new abilities in response to a changing environment, and they react by 'stealing' genetic information from other better-adapted types of bacteria. They do this by horizontal gene transfer, through which bacteria obtain genetic material from their distant relatives. This allows them to evolve the networks of chemical reactions that enable them to do new things, such as defend themselves against antibiotics or antibacterial sprays. In the first ever systematic study of how bacteria change their metabolic networks, researchers have been able to piece together the history of new metabolic genes acquired by the E.coli bacterium. They estimate that approximately 25 of E.coli's roughly 900 metabolic genes have been added into its network through horizontal gene transfer in the last 100 million years. This compares to just one addition by the most common source of new genes in animals, gene duplication, where copies of genes are made by accident and then altered over time. To test why these new genes were needed by E.coli, the researchers cross examined dozens of E.coli's closest bacterial relatives to see which genes were most commonly exchanged between them. They found that most of these genes helped bacteria cope with specific environments. Source: [http://www.bath.ac.uk/news/articles/releases/molecularnet201\\_105.html](http://www.bath.ac.uk/news/articles/releases/molecularnet201_105.html)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Government Sector**

Nothing to report.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Emergency Services Sector**

22. *November 20, WCCO (MN)* — **Minnesota metro disaster plan calls for evacuation on foot.** Images from Hurricane Katrina sent Minnesota's evacuation planners back to the drawing board. The state is preparing a Minneapolis/St. Paul evacuation plan that does not include "contra flow," which means reversing freeways so that all traffic flows in just one direction: out. Instead of designating highways as escape routes, Minnesota's preparing to evacuate the old-fashioned way: by walking. Depending on the incident, pedestrians in a danger zone would walk a mile to a designated "safe zone." They'd be taken by bus to an "emergency reception center" with food and water. Metro area counties and cities already have individual evacuation plans. The new state emergency plan will eventually coordinate evacuations in major metro disasters.  
Source: [http://wcco.com/local/local\\_story\\_324155614.html](http://wcco.com/local/local_story_324155614.html)

23. *November 18, Government Executive* — **Hurricanes have little influence on citizen preparedness, report finds.** Hurricanes Katrina and Rita have had little impact on most people's preparations for disasters, but have hurt confidence in all levels of government, according to a recent study. More than half of Americans surveyed for the study said they have not taken steps to better prepare themselves for a disaster even though they are aware of the devastation caused by the hurricanes and subsequent flooding of New Orleans, according to a report from New York University's Center for Catastrophic Preparedness and Response. The study compared a survey conducted before the hurricanes hit to one conducted after. The report recommended that Congress give President Bush the power to create a new Citizen Preparedness Directorate within the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). "Such a directorate would have the authority to develop interagency plans, deploy and redeploy resources and oversee government-wide activities to better prepare individual citizens and federal, state and local agencies for a wide range of catastrophic events," the report stated. DHS spokesperson Marc Short said the department has several citizen preparedness efforts and programs, but they are not organized under one directorate.  
New York University's Center for Catastrophic Preparedness and Response's report: <http://www.nyu.edu/ccpr/katrina-effect.pdf>  
Source: [http://govexec.com/story\\_page.cfm?articleid=32847&dcn=todays\\_news](http://govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=32847&dcn=todays_news)

[[Return to top](#)]

## **Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector**

24. *November 18, Hackers Center* — **Sony CD SunnComm MediaMax Uninstallation ActiveX vulnerability.** A vulnerability has been identified in Sony CD SunnComm MediaMax uninstaller. This could be exploited by attackers to execute arbitrary commands. This flaw is due to a design error in the "AxWebRemoveCtrl" ActiveX control. Hackers Center recommends setting a kill bit for the CLSID {1F1EB85B-0FE9-401D-BC53-10803CF880A7}.  
[Solution:http://support.microsoft.com/kb/240797](http://support.microsoft.com/kb/240797)  
Source: <http://www.hackerscenter.com/archive/view.asp?id=20364>

25. *November 18, Security Focus* — **Hitachi Collaboration Schedule unspecified denial of service vulnerability.** Hitachi Collaboration Schedule is prone to a denial of service vulnerability. This vulnerability may be triggered by multiple invalid requests sent to the

schedule. Security Focus reports that the vendor has released fixes for this vulnerability.  
Source: <http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/15500/info>

26. *November 18, Washington Technology* — **Market for informatics reaches one billion per year.** According to a report from C.E. Unterberg, Towbin Inc. of New York and business incubator Chesapeake Innovation Center of Annapolis, MD, intelligence and security informatics IT is now one billion a year. Since 9–11, the urgent need for homeland security and an increase in available government funding have been driving the market for advanced anti–terrorism IT. Sales of counterterrorism analytics and software for both private and public companies are expanding at an estimated 20 percent a year and have accounted for two billion in mergers and acquisitions in the last 18 months, according to a news release about the report. Report (registration required): <http://www.cic-tech.org/register.html>  
Source: [http://www.washingtontechnology.com/news/1\\_1/daily\\_news/2744\\_7-1.html](http://www.washingtontechnology.com/news/1_1/daily_news/2744_7-1.html)

### Internet Alert Dashboard

#### DHS/US–CERT Watch Synopsis

**Over the preceding 24 hours, there has been no cyber activity which constitutes an unusual and significant threat to Homeland Security, National Security, the Internet, or the Nation's critical infrastructures.**

**US–CERT Operations Center Synopsis:** US–CERT is aware of several vulnerabilities regarding the XCP Digital Rights Management (DRM) software by First 4 Internet, which is distributed by some Sony BMG audio CDs. The XCP copy protection software uses "rootkit" technology to hide certain files from the user. This technique can pose a security threat, as malware can take advantage of the ability to hide files. We are aware of malware that is currently using this technique to hide.

One of the un–installation options provided by Sony also introduces vulnerabilities to a system. Upon submitting a request to uninstall the DRM software, the user will receive via email a link to a Sony BMG web page. This page will attempt to install an ActiveX control when it is displayed in Internet Explorer. This ActiveX control is marked "Safe for scripting," which means that any web page can utilize the control and its methods. Some of the methods provided by this control are dangerous, as they may allow an attacker to download and execute arbitrary code.

US–CERT recommends the following ways to help prevent the installation of this type of rootkit:

\*Do not run your system with administrative privileges. Without administrative privileges, the XCP DRM software will not install.

\* Use caution when installing software. Do not install software from sources that you do not expect to contain software, such as an audio CD.

\*Read the EULA (End User License Agreement) if you do decide to install software.

This document can contain information about what the software may do.

\*Disable automatically running CD-ROMs by editing the registry to change the Autorun value to 0 (zero) as described in Microsoft Article 155217.

For more information please review US-CERT Vulnerability Note VU#31207: First 4 Internet XCP "Software Updater Control" ActiveX control incorrectly marked "safe for scripting"

<http://www.kb.cert.org/vuls/id/312073>

#### Current Port Attacks

<b>Top 10 Target Ports</b>	6346 (gnutella-svc), 1026 (win-rpc), 6881 (bittorrent), 445 (microsoft-ds), 80 (www), 27015 (halflife), 1025 (win-rpc), 135 (epmap), 53 (domain), 25 (smtp) Source: <a href="http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html">http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html</a> ; Internet Storm Center
----------------------------	--

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at [soc@us-cert.gov](mailto:soc@us-cert.gov) or visit their Website: [www.us-cert.gov](http://www.us-cert.gov).

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector**

**27. *November 21, Local6.com (FL)* — Wal-Mart dynamite hoax investigated.** Investigators are looking at surveillance video in hopes of identifying the man who they said threw a hoax explosive late Sunday, November 20, in the gas station of a Wal-Mart Supercenter in West Melbourne, FL, causing a three-hour evacuation, according to reports. Three witnesses told police they saw a man and two women in a four-door white vehicle approach the Murphy USA gas station in the southwest corner of the Wal-Mart parking lot, said Officer Jason Hitte Sr. with West Melbourne police. The man and one of the women got out of the vehicle, and the man then threw a package of red tubes wrapped with electrical tape. They were made to resemble dynamite, and also attached was something made to resemble a fuse, police said. The Brevard County sheriff's bomb squad examined the red tubes and found them to be fakes. Source: <http://www.local6.com/news/5371482/detail.html>

**28. *November 21, Washington Times* — D.C. schools add security staffers.** The D.C. public school system has tripled the size of its internal security force since last year, adding dozens of new in-house officers to the hundreds of private guards already working in city schools under a two-year, \$30 million contract. The number of school-system employees hired to provide security rose from 14 to at least 40 positions, according to an analysis of January and July 2005 payroll records. The figure does not include private guards working in more than 160 school buildings on a contract basis. According to school officials, the school system received the new positions as a result of negotiations with the Metropolitan Police Department last year over the latest school security contract. Police took over school security in July 2005 as a result of recently enacted D.C. Council legislation. Thomas Brady, business administrator for the school system, said the move gives the school system its own force to perform services such as 24-hour monitoring of school buildings, investigation of internal administrative matters,

command center staffing and burglary response.

Source: <http://washingtontimes.com/metro/20051120-104549-4188r.htm>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **General Sector**

Nothing to report.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

### **DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information**

[DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Reports](#) – The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a daily [Monday through Friday] summary of open-source published information concerning significant critical infrastructure issues. The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is archived for ten days on the Department of Homeland Security Website: <http://www.dhs.gov/iaipdailyreport>

#### **DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information**

Content and Suggestions:

Send mail to [dhsdailyadmin@mail.dhs.osis.gov](mailto:dhsdailyadmin@mail.dhs.osis.gov) or contact the DHS Daily Report Team at (703) 983-3644.

Subscription and Distribution Information:

Send mail to [dhsdailyadmin@mail.dhs.osis.gov](mailto:dhsdailyadmin@mail.dhs.osis.gov) or contact the DHS Daily Report Team at (703) 983-3644 for more information.

#### **Contact DHS**

To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at [nicc@dhs.gov](mailto:nicc@dhs.gov) or (202) 282-9201.

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at [soc@us-cert.gov](mailto:soc@us-cert.gov) or visit their Web page at [www.us-cert.gov](http://www.us-cert.gov).

#### **Department of Homeland Security Disclaimer**

The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a non-commercial publication intended to educate and inform personnel engaged in infrastructure protection. Further reproduction or redistribution is subject to original copyright restrictions. DHS provides no warranty of ownership of the copyright, or accuracy with respect to the original source material.